

CREATING AN OPINION

Do Now: What is an opinion? What is your opinion about the name – not the team itself - of the Washington Redskins football team? (This is an example that should reflect your definition of an opinion.)

Today the words opinion and preference are used interchangeably, but they do not mean the same thing.

connotation: how the word is used, usually associated with a particular feeling

denotation: the definition of a word

example: integrate → denotation – to mix (The ingredients for the cake were integrated.)
connotation – mixing races (The integrated schools had students of many races)

Preference has become the connotation for opinion, but the word opinion has a specific meaning. According to the Greeks and Romans, an opinion is:

- **thought-out** → not made up on the spot, adjusted with new information
- **reasoned** → can be defended, not based on trust or personal belief
- ***educated and informed** → person making the opinion has researched the topic
 - all of these lead to opinions that are supported by facts and evidence!!

* this one was most important to the Greeks and Romans and is still very important!!

The Greeks and Romans **did not** believe “everyone has the right to an opinion.”

YOU EARN THE RIGHT TO AN OPINION!

You have to know something to have an opinion and having that opinion is earned through careful study. Everyone can gain the knowledge to have an opinion, but you have to do the work in order to get credit and authority.

Go back and take a look at what you wrote for the do now. Was it an opinion or a preference? Maybe something in between? What facts did you have to support your position? What information would have made you more knowledgeable about the issue? Where would you have found that information?

(An aside, the internet is not a place or a source. You go to sites on the internet, kind of like you check out books from a library. You know something because you read a book, not because you went to the library. The same is true with the internet. You know something because you read it on a website, not because you found it on the internet.)